

Approved For Release 2003/10/21 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300070021-9

TO:		DATE
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REMARKS:		
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FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	

DOS review(s) completed.

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STAT

JULY 9, 1971

Honorable James L. Buckley
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Buckley:

STATOTHR

I am pleased to reply to your communication of June 24, 1971, requesting on behalf of [redacted] information concerning exports of opium by the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Statistics on opium production or on the production of other commodities are not published by the Chinese government in Peking and we know of no other possible source for statistics on this subject. Recently, however, the Department of State in conjunction with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and other concerned Washington agencies has made extensive studies of the opium and heroin trade in Southeast Asia. Because allegations have been noted from time to time that the People's Republic of China is actively involved in this trade special attention was given to examining this aspect of the problem.

Our studies revealed that there is no reliable evidence that the Communist Chinese have ever either engaged in or sanctioned the illicit export of opium or its derivatives. Moreover, we found no evidence that the PRC exercises any control over or participates in the Southeast Asian opium trade, although ethnic Chinese figure prominently in that trade. For example, almost all documented illicit shipments of opium and morphine base into the British Colony of Hong Kong, which is estimated to have between 60 and 100 thousand addicts, originate in Southeast Asia.

There is, insofar as we know, no illicit drug problem in Communist China as that government has for years strictly forbidden the private production, consumption, and distribution of opium or its derivatives. Stringent controls over opium poppy production and use were adopted at the 21st Session of the State Administrative Council of the PRC on February 24, 1950. These were applied with great vigor in Han (ethnic Chinese) areas, but according to some

- 2 -

reports, the use of opium in tribal areas where its use was already established continued to be permitted for several years afterwards. It is presumed that in the 20 years that have passed since these controls were imposed that the only opium produced in China is utilized for medicinal purposes and is grown under government control.

STATOTHR I hope the foregoing information will be helpful to you in replying to [REDACTED]. Please continue to call on us whenever you believe we might be of assistance.

Sincerely,

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned

REQUEST FOR MATERIAL, PHOTOS AND FLAGS FROM SENATOR BUCKLEY

Date received 6/17/71

Mail to

[Redacted box]

STATOTHR

Material

* Statistics of the Red
China of 1970 Exports
in 1970

Requested by

above

Order taken by

[Redacted box]

ILLEGIB

☒ Phone

☐ Letter

☐ Person

☐ Other

Disposition

* If you can't find these
Send her source of information as
to where she could find them + send